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# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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USDA FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE  
CELEBRATES 25TH YEAR

The Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture this month marks its 25th year of service to American agriculture. FAS was established June 5, 1930, as a part of what was then the Department's Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In 1939, FAS became the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations; and in 1953 was reorganized once more as FAS, with the major objective of aggressively helping American agriculture sell its products overseas. Its agricultural attaches, now stationed in 36 countries, and marketing specialists keep it continually informed of developments abroad. The attache reporting service is to be expanded within the next few months.

CUBA RESCINDS 5-CENT  
IMPORT TAX ON BABY CHICKS

In the official Gazette of May 24, 1955, the Cuban Government published Decree No. 1265, dated May 3, 1955, in which it suspended the special import duty of 5 cents on each animal imported into Cuba, insofar as it pertained to the importation of baby chicks. Thus, since May 24, baby chicks imported into Cuba are not subject to the 5-cent-per-head import tax, according to a report from the office of the Agricultural Attache, Havana, Cuba.

NEW ZEALAND RESTRICTS  
AUSTRALIAN CITRUS

Following a severe outbreak of fruit-fly infestation in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area of Australia, the New Zealand Government has imposed import restrictions on all fruits, including citrus, from that area. The fruit must undergo refrigeration at 31° F. for 21 days before it can enter New Zealand. The trade doubts that citrus can stand such treatment. The first shipment of California citrus is expected to arrive in New Zealand in May.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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THAILAND RICE  
EXPORT ESTIMATE

Rice available for export from Thailand during calendar year 1955 will probably not exceed 1,300,000 metric tons (1 metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds) and may be somewhat less, according to Graham S. Quate, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Bangkok. Usually reliable trade sources estimate that exportable supplies may be as low as 1,100,000 tons, possibly not over 1,000,000 tons.

The estimated maximum surplus of 1,300,000 metric tons includes all rice to be milled from old-crop paddy plus that from the 1954-55 crop. It does not include normal year-end carryover of 100,000 metric tons which is about the amount of rice in millers' warehouses, on lighters enroute to ships in Bangkok harbor and at Kongsichang; and on export vessels being loaded for departure.

Rice exports of 458,100 metric tons in terms of milled from Thailand during the first 4 months of 1955 were 116,000 tons, or 34 percent, larger than in the same period a year earlier. The four heaviest purchasers of Thai rice, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaya, took 82 percent of January-April exports. (Text cont'd., next page.)

THAILAND: Rice exports, by country of destination,  
January-April 1955, with comparisons

Country of destination	1951	1952	1953	1954	January-April	
					1954	1955
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
British territories	531,700	582,400	635,613	494,829	1/132,977	1/230,864
Japan	354,790	297,900	477,301	333,453	131,000	164,122
Indonesia	186,250	191,800	29,164	57,832	47,532	0
Europe	79,510	36,800	34,515	59,987	2/19,444	2/24,123
Middle East	8,130	15,000	7,352	14,832	7,083	2,278
Philippines	110,220	30,100	0	15,500	500	3,900
Okinawa	0	9,400	500	4,050	500	14,710
Macao	0	0	0	12,383	0	3,100
Ceylon	0	16,300	0	0	0	12,300
Africa	10,140	16,000	24,310	6,135	1,865	2,599
Laos	3/	3/	3/	2,000	1,700	4/0
India	230,100	177,300	4,227	3,300	0	0
Korea	36,288	49,600	99,815	0	0	0
Other countries	8,432	5,400	22,922	23	0	104
Total	1,555,560	1,428,000	1,336,219	1,004,324	342,601	458,100

1/ Excluding United Kingdom. 2/ Including United Kingdom. 3/ If any, not separately reported. 4/ As reported.

Compiled from unofficial sources.

In addition to exports of milled rice, Thailand during the same period exported approximately 61,000 metric tons of rice flour manufactured from low-grade, fine broken. Of 49,455 metric tons of flour exports during the first quarter 1955, 10,550 tons went to Singapore and Malaya, 31,300 to the European Continent, 7,050 to Hong Kong, 300 to Macao, and 255 to Japan. Total exports of flour during April are estimated at 12,000 tons. Thus, total rice exports, including flour, from January through April 1955 approximated 520,000 metric tons.

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#### CANADA'S GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY AT HIGH LEVEL

Total grain storage capacity in Canada as of December 1, 1954, was estimated at 583.4 million bushels, according to reports by the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada. Of that total, licensed storage accounted for 581.0 million bushels, including 5.4 million in special annexes suitable for emergency storage. Provision was made in September 1951 for licensing such structures on a temporary basis.

Records back to 1900 show that Canada's present storage capacity exceeds that of all other years except 1941-1944; in each of those years total capacity was slightly over 600 million bushels. Peak capacity was reached in December 1943, when the total was estimated at 604.7 million bushels.

From the peak in 1943, the capacity dropped to 510.1 million bushels by 1946 and showed a further slight decline in 1947. Beginning with 1948 an increase is noted for each year, and the present capacity is 15 percent above the 1947 estimate.

On a regional basis, storage of 490.1 million bushels, or 84 percent of the present licensed storage capacity, is located in the Western Division. Capacity in the Prairie Provinces alone is reported at 371.5 million bushels, with 192.9 in Saskatchewan, 125.4 in Alberta, and 53.2 in Manitoba. (See table, opposite page.)

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#### MEXICO REPORTS SECOND LARGEST WHEAT CROP

The wheat harvest now under way in Mexico is forecast at about 29.4 million bushels, according to recent reports from the American Embassy, Mexico, D. F. This would be the second largest wheat crop ever produced in that country, exceeded only by the 1954 outturn of 30.3 million bushels. The current crop was reduced by unfavorable conditions in some areas.

Losses from freezes during the month of February were reported in southern Sonora. Further damage from low temperatures was reported in northern Coahuila. Those local losses, however, were largely offset by higher yields in northern Sonora and in the state of Sinaloa. (Cont'd. p. 674.)



Canada: Grain storage capacity as of December 1, 1951-1954

Item	1951	1952	1953	Elevators, including permanent & temporary annexes	1954	
					Special annexes	Total
	:1,000 bu.	:1,000 bu.	:1,000 bu.	:1,000 bu.	:1,000 bu.	:1,000 bu.
Licensed Storage						
Western Division						
Manitoba:						
Public country .....	37,154	40,227	43,001	44,467	263	44,730
Private country .....	88	88	88	88	-	88
Mill .....	1,775	1,775	1,775	1,775	-	1,775
Private terminal .....	3,146	3,145	3,146	3,146	-	3,146
Semi-public terminal .....	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	-	3,500
Total .....	45,663	48,735	51,510	52,976	263	53,239
Saskatchewan:						
Public country .....	150,579	159,207	167,857	174,156	2,766	176,922
Private country .....	59	29	29	29	-	29
Mill .....	4,907	4,906	4,977	4,926	-	4,926
Public terminal .....	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	-	11,000
Total .....	166,545	175,142	183,863	190,111	2,766	192,877
Alberta:						
Public country .....	100,734	105,535	109,141	112,043	1,341	113,384
Private country .....	207	232	233	232	-	232
Mill .....	3,994	3,994	3,994	3,994	-	3,994
Private terminal .....	1,715	1,715	1,640	1,715	-	1,715
Public terminal .....	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	-	6,100
Total .....	112,750	117,576	121,108	124,084	1,341	125,425
British Columbia:						
Public country .....	1,344	1,451	1,571	1,723	-	1,723
Mill .....	1,150	1,270	1,270	1,255	-	1,255
Public terminal .....	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	-	1,250
Semi-public terminal .....	20,507	20,507	20,507	18,857	-	18,857
Total .....	24,251	24,478	24,598	23,085	-	23,085
Ontario:						
Public country .....	65	65	1,065	65	1,000	1,065
Mill .....	1,480	1,480	1,480	1,480	-	1,480
Private terminal .....	2,435	2,435	2,435	2,435	-	2,435
Semi-public terminal .....	90,517	84,449	90,517	90,517	-	90,517
Total .....	94,497	88,429	95,497	94,497	1,000	95,497
Total Western Division .....	443,706	454,360	476,575	484,753	5,370	490,123
Eastern Division						
Ontario .....	52,341	54,741	54,741	55,741	-	55,741
Quebec .....	24,912	24,912	24,912	27,912	-	27,912
New Brunswick .....	3,077	3,077	3,077	3,077	-	3,077
Nova Scotia .....	2,200	2,200	2,200	4,116	-	4,116
Total Eastern Division .....	82,530	84,930	84,930	90,846	-	90,846
Total licensed storage .....	526,235	539,290	561,505	575,599	5,370	580,969
Total unlicensed storage .....	4,427	3,358	2,941	2,448	-	2,448
Grand total storage capacity ..	530,662	542,648	564,446	578,047	5,370	583,417

From reports of The Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada.

A scarcity of wheat during February and March 1955 is now being relieved as supplies from the new crop reach the mills. During the period of scarcity, 24 mills were reported to have stopped operating because of a lack of wheat. Supplies of flour were sufficient, however, to meet consumption requirements.

No wheat has been imported since June 1954. Total imports for the calendar year 1954 were only 2.3 million bushels. That is the smallest import total for any year since 1940. Under terms of a recent agreement between the Mexican Government and the Commodity Credit Corporation, an exchange of 3.7 million bushels of wheat will go to Mexico in exchange for fluorspar. Only a small part of this amount is expected to be imported up to the end of the current marketing year (July 31, 1955.) The remainder is expected to move during late 1955 or early 1956.

The wholesale price of wheat in Mexico City rose to the record level of \$2.18 per bushel during December 1954; but declined to about \$2.08 early in 1955, as it became evident that flour supplies were adequate to meet needs until the new crop started moving to market. The guaranteed price to farmers for the 1954 crop was increased 10 percent on March 1, bringing it to \$1.99 per bushel. There will be a further increase of about 2 cents per bushel beginning August 1, 1955, until all of the 1954 crop has been sold.

#### NEW IRAQI DATE PACKING PLANTS

The Iraqi Government Date Association completed at Baghdad in 1954 its first date packing and fumigating plant, and is having a similar one constructed at Basra. The purpose of these plants is to improve the market prospects for Iraqi dates by better packing, grading, and fumigating. The Central Area Date Trading Company, reorganized as a monopoly in April 1955, has plans to build packing plants for the central Euphrates area.

#### WORLD COCOA BEAN FORECAST RISES; LATIN-AMERICAN PRODUCTION UP

The 1954-55 world forecast of cocoa bean production, which was reduced to 1,694 million pounds March 21, 1955, as result of reported crop decreases in the French Cameroons and Nigeria, is now placed at 1,713 million pounds.

This recovery to the earlier March 11, 1955, forecast is due to reported production gains in Central and South America. Brazil accounts for the largest increase, with total output for 1954-55 now estimated to be 366 million pounds. Lesser gains are also recorded for the Dominican Republic and Mexico.



SPRING SOWINGS STEPPED UP  
IN SOVIET UNION

Sowings in the Soviet Union made considerable headway during the first half of May, following a late start in some regions due to unfavorable weather conditions. The area seeded to all grain crops by May 15 exceeded that sown on the same date of last year by more than 40 million acres. The area seeded to wheat alone by May 15 was 29 million acres above that seeded during the same period last year. It should be noted that official goals call for an increase of about 40 million acres under grain, much of it under wheat, on the virgin or long uncultivated land in the eastern regions beyond the Volga and the Urals. (See "The New Battle for Grain in Soviet Russia," Foreign Agriculture, November, 1954, pp. 194-99.) Most of this land was plowed last year for seeding during the current season. Much of this new area is in the semi-arid zone and moisture is the controlling factor in production. This spring the moisture situation appears to be, on the whole, favorable in the regions of new acreage expansion as well as in most other regions. This is a favorable omen for the harvest, which suffered from a drought last year in the Ukraine and the Volga Basin. However, much of the critical period, during which the crops are made, is still ahead and the prospects may be radically altered.

In addition to the expansion of the grain acreage in the eastern regions which began in 1954, a campaign was started by the Soviet Government this year for a large increase of the corn acreage in order to bolster the lagging fodder supply for livestock. Until this year corn was a minor crop in the Soviet Union, occupying an area of about 10 million acres out of the total grain acreage of more than 270 million acres. Corn has been pushed partly at the expense of other spring crops, such as oats, barley, and wheat. It is also planted on the extensive summer fallow area. The corn campaign has been carried into nearly all regions of the country, though in many of them climatic conditions do not appear favorable for the growing of this crop; it is either too cold or too dry. By May 15, more than 20 million acres were already planted to corn, or 11 million acres more than was planted during the same period last year. The official goal, however, calls for nearly 40 million acres under corn, and speeding up of the planting, especially in the more northern and eastern regions, has been officially stressed. The corn planting has been slowed up by such factors as the lateness of the spring, shortage of machinery and probably of seed, unfamiliarity of the farmers with the corn culture, and their cautiousness in introduction of a new crop. Also, the use of check hill method of corn planting has been strongly emphasized officially; and its apparently frequent non-observance or violation condemned.

Planting of sugar beets was completed in the Ukraine in mid-May, and the area was expanded by nearly 290,000 acres to over 2,700,000 acres. The Ukraine is the principal sugar-producing region of the Soviet Union, accounting for about 75 percent of the total Soviet sugar production. Last year, a serious drought adversely affected the sugar beet crop.

A cold wave in the cotton-growing regions necessitated some replanting of cotton, and growth appeared to be lagging in a number of places. (Cont'd., next page.)

There have been the usual complaints in the Soviet press about such things as faulty preparation for sowing, stoppages and breakdown of tractors, and slow delivery of needed commercial fertilizers. Another source of confusion apparently is the insistence by the Government on the swift decentralization of the hitherto rigidly centralized agricultural planning procedure whereby, on paper at least, greater responsibility is delegated to the management of collective farms.

#### WESTERN GERMANY'S TRADE IN DAIRY PRODUCTS

Imports of dairy products into Western Germany were higher than a year ago and consisted mainly of cheese, butter, and processed milk, according to a dispatch from R. A. O. Schwartz, Agricultural Officer, American Embassy, Bonn. As in the past, the chief sources were the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and Switzerland which supplied about 95 percent of all dairy product imports. Trade with the United States was negligible.

#### Western Germany: Imports of Dairy Products, 1954

Origin	Cheese	Butter	Processed Milk
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Austria	538	509	-
Denmark	48,232	12,150	159
Finland	-	249	-
France	60	2,138	-
Italy	209	-	-
Netherlands	73,131	9,129	7,231
New Zealand	1,345	-	-
Norway	110	176	-
Sweden	1,944	4,290	481
Switzerland	3,291	-	-
United Kingdom	35	-	1,254
United States	-	-	143
Others	92	671	16
Total	128,987	29,312	9,284

Exports of dairy products from Western Germany also increased in 1954, compared with a year earlier, and consisted mainly of Emmenthaler and processed cheese. The largest shipments were made to Italy (7.3 million pounds), Belgium (2.7 million pounds), and France (1.0 million pounds) out of a total cheese export of 13.2 million pounds. Trade with the United States was again only of minor importance, consisting entirely of 196,000 pounds of cheese.

Western Germany also exported 4.9 million pounds of processed milk in 1954, of which 2.2 million pounds went to India, and 1.3 million pounds to Denmark.



WORLD MEAT OUTPUT  
SETS NEW HIGH

Production of meat during 1954 in the principal countries of the world, exclusive of the Far East, was approximately 3 percent greater than the record output of 1953, 24 percent greater than the 1946-50 average, and 20 percent above prewar. Production in the 42 countries for which detailed production estimates have been prepared totaled 83 billion pounds during 1954 and accounted for perhaps 93 percent of the world output, exclusive of China, according to information collected and analyzed by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Meat output is now substantially above the 1946-50 average in Eastern and Western Europe, the U.S.S.R., Australia, New Zealand, and North America. But production in South America apparently is below the average. Fairly large increases in meat production during 1954 were recorded in Western Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand. But production in South America as a whole during the year apparently was below 1953.

A further moderate increase in meat output during 1955 is in prospect. World cattle and sheep numbers have been increasing and have established new high records. Hog numbers rose 6 percent during 1954 to set also a new high total. The increased number of hogs in the world is already showing up in increased pork production. Indications now point to record meat production during 1955 in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, France, and a number of countries in Western Europe. Production in the United States, the world's largest producer, is expected to show its fourth consecutive increase and attain a new high. Output of both beef and pork are likely to increase with most of the increase occurring in pork.

Progressive increases in meat production for several years in the United Kingdom, the United States, Western Germany, Italy, Sweden, and France are tending to limit import requirements. However, during the past 2 years the U.S.S.R. has imported large quantities of meat from the free world. Also with general world prosperity there has been a continued strong demand for meat, which has tended to provide a favorable market for surplus producing countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Argentina, Uruguay, and Ireland.

World meat output has now reached such high levels that it would appear that the principal exporting countries may expect lower prices for their production, and the competition for export markets will become more severe. New Zealand, Australia, Germany, and France have embarked on programs to develop new export outlets for their production. Some of these countries, together with Denmark, appear particularly interested in increasing shipments to the U.S.S.R. and other Eastern European areas, in view of the dim outlook for increased sales in the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom is by far the largest meat importing country in the world and accounted for 76 percent of all meat entering international trade in 1953. (Cont'd. next page. See table, p. 679.)



Stocks of frozen meat have accumulated in the United Kingdom since decontrol in July 1954. Home production has increased substantially in recent years. Home production during 1954 supplied 67 percent of the nation's requirements of carcass meat and edible offal compared with 65 percent in 1951 and only 51 percent in prewar. Domestic production supplied 46 percent of the bacon and ham used in the United Kingdom last year compared with only 29 percent in prewar. Since the decontrol of the meat trade and the end of rationing, British consumers have shown a strong preference for fresh and chilled meats over frozen supplies. Current wholesale prices of frozen Australian and New Zealand beef are about half the prices of comparable grades of home-produced and Irish beef. This has resulted in a sharp increase in exports of chilled beef from Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and Uruguay for the British trade. Frozen lamb in the United Kingdom is selling at a distinct discount under prices of chilled carcasses.

The above report is one of a regularly scheduled series on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad.

(See table, opposite page.)

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#### U. K. EXPORTS OF CIGARETTES UP IN FIRST QUARTER OF 1955

Exports of Cigarettes by the United Kingdom increased in the first quarter of 1955 to 11.1 million pounds, compared with 10.3 million shipped during the corresponding part of 1954. Commonwealth countries took most of the increase, as shipments to them increased from 7.5 million pounds in the January-March period of 1954 to 7.9 million during the first 3 months of 1955. This may be a reversal of the downtrend in the United Kingdom exports of cigarettes, which had dropped from 45.1 million pounds in 1952 to 38.6 million in 1954.

#### EXPORTS OF TURKISH TOBACCO HIGHER IN 1955

Turkey's exports of unmanufactured tobacco increased sharply during the first quarter of 1955 to 47.9 million pounds compared with 25.3 million shipped in the same period during 1954. Continued shipments at this rate would probably result in much larger tobacco exports this year than in 1954 and possibly reach the 1953 level of 158.1 million pounds.

Much of this increase is in shipments to the Soviet Bloc, which reached 19.2 million pounds during the first 3 months of this year compared with 8 million and 24.6 million pounds respectively for the whole years 1953 and 1954. Exports to Austria, Spain, Italy, and Switzerland are larger in the first quarter of 1955 than total exports to these countries during 1954. Shipments to the United States are smaller, 5.5 million pounds compared to 8.1 million in the first 3 months of 1954. (See table, page 680.)

MEAT 1/: Preliminary estimate of production of beef and veal, pork, mutton, lamb and goat meat, and total meat in specified countries in 1954, with comparison

Country	Beef and Veal			Pork (excluding lard)			Mutton, Lamb and Goat			Total 2/			1954 as Percent of		
	Average : 1946-50 : Million : Pounds :	1953 : Million : Pounds :	1954 3/ : Million : Pounds :	Average : 1946-50 : Million : Pounds :	1953 : Million : Pounds :	1954 3/ : Million : Pounds :	Average : 1946-50 : Million : Pounds :	1953 : Million : Pounds :	1954 3/ : Million : Pounds :	1953 : Million : Pounds :	1954 3/ : Million : Pounds :	1946-50 : Million : Pounds :	Percent : Percent : Percent :	Percent : Percent : Percent :	Percent : Percent : Percent :
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>															
Canada .....	1,043	1,041	1,135	956	915	930	54	29	30	2,053	1,985	2,095	102	106	106
Mexico .....	723	763	863	262	265	317	50	68	48	1,095	1,096	1,228	119	112	112
United States .....	10,980	13,989	14,647	10,541	10,063	9,952	743	728	734	22,264	24,780	25,333	114	102	102
Cuba .....	375	372	376	37	42	44	2	2	-	414	416	420	101	101	101
<b>EUROPE</b>															
Austria .....	158	263	267	232	402	393	10	4	4	497	679	675	166	99	99
Belgium .....	238	354	386	267	394	386	7	6	6	559	804	839	150	104	104
Denmark 4/ .....	327	394	419	520	1,012	1,110	7	3	2	884	1,443	1,570	178	109	109
Finland .....	91	115	116	109	134	134	11	17	17	220	278	279	127	100	100
France .....	1,937	2,557	2,998	1,398	2,028	1,984	185	243	243	3,648	5,004	5,423	149	108	108
Germany, Western ..	5/ 1,060	1,722	1,836 5/	1,530	2,848	2,925 5/	45	45	39 5/	2,700	4,684	4,870	180	104	104
Greece .....	23	24	28 5/	38	48	49 5/	91	112	127 5/	152	184	204	134	111	111
Ireland .....	158	178	194	129	195	224	40	45	48	327	418	466	143	111	111
Italy .....	522	800	878	645	835	875	109	110	108	1,306	1,807	1,918	147	106	106
Netherlands .....	227	375	402	294	626	639	13	17	14	555	1,035	1,086	196	105	105
Norway .....	87	96	104	70	85	93	30	35	37	193	222	235	122	106	106
Portugal .....	62	77	91	215	208	186	47	48	53	324	335	332	102	99	99
Sweden 4/ .....	261	264	276	341	400	416	7	4	4	637	696	737	116	106	106
Switzerland .....	173	213	213	148	219	212	4	5	5	336	446	430	128	96	96
United Kingdom .....	1,230	1,398	1,416	490	1,219	1,317	305	386	409	2,025	3,005	3,142	155	105	105
Yugoslavia .....	217	208	239	421	313	446	127	101	123	784	644	830	106	129	129
<b>ASIA</b>															
Turkey .....	5/ 208	287	308	-	-	-	5/ 307	366	385 5/	515	653	693	135	106	106
Rep. of the Philippines 5/ ..	33	41	42 5/	87	136	144	3	4	4 5/	125	181	192	154	106	106
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>															
Argentina .....	4,284	3,637	3,527	391	320	287	540	441	485	5,215	4,398	4,299	82	98	98
Brazil 6/ .....	2,114	2,352	2,376	512	560	571	69	88	86	2,695	3,000	3,033	113	101	101
Chile .....	280	249	-	52	63	-	94	110	-	426	422	-	99	-	-
Colombia .....	635	650	-	75	93	-	35	30	-	745	773	-	104	-	-
Paraguay .....	230	170	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	230	170	-	74	-	-
Uruguay .....	543	707	662	36	43	33	164	138	132	743	888	827	111	93	93
<b>AFRICA</b>															
Union of South Africa .....	650	671	658	82	92	84	185	196	199	917	959	941	103	98	98
<b>OCEANIA</b>															
Australia .....	1,226	1,579	1,618	210	189	194	701	823	840	2,137	2,591	2,652	124	102	102
New Zealand 7/ .....	409	402	461	84	90	82	708	729	733	1,201	1,221	1,276	106	105	105

1/ Carcass meat basis - excludes offal and lard. 2/ Includes horsemeat in addition to types shown in other columns, if it is produced in quantity. 3/ Preliminary.  
 4/ Includes carcass weight equivalent of live animals exported. 5/ Average for less than five years.  
 6/ Excludes farm production. 7/ Years ending September 30.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Foreign Agricultural Service, May, 1955.



(Table below supplements text, bottom p. 678.)

TURKEY: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco

Country of Destination	1953	1954 <u>1/</u>	Jan.-Mar. 1955 <u>1/</u>
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United States .....	72,115	64,944	5,490
West Germany .....	22,347	12,221	7,124
Soviet Bloc <u>2/</u> .....	7,962	24,624	19,214
Great Britain .....	10,251	10,766	280
Belgium .....	5,655	2,961	1,412
Finland .....	3,330	2,443	1,318
France .....	4,447	4,969	1,052
Sweden .....	1,649	3,049	396
Egypt .....	9,505	4,487	1,559
Austria .....	3,615	2,107	2,639
Spain .....	1,880	<u>3/</u>	441
Italy .....	6,821	1,496	4,440
Switzerland .....	3,055	943	1,653
Other .....	5,456	4,091	870
Total .....	158,088	139,101	47,888

1/ Preliminary figures.

2/ East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Soviet Union during 1953 and 1954. Bulgaria and U.S.S.R. not recorded in first 3 months of 1955.

3/ If any, included in other.

PARAGUAY'S COTTON CROP  
ABOUT SAME AS LAST YEAR

Cotton production in Paraguay during the August-July 1954-55 crop year is currently estimated at approximately 62,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or about the same as the 1953-54 crop, according to S. P. Miller, American Embassy, Asuncion. Cotton acreage for the 1945-55 crop was increased by about 15 percent over the previous year, 173,000 acres as compared with 150,000 in 1953-54, but unfavorable weather and extensive replanting caused the crop to get a late start--thus the decline in production. Approximately half the new crop had been harvested by the end of April 1955, but no exports of new-crop cotton had been made.

Paraguay's cotton consumption averages approximately 15,000 bales annually, and the balance of the crop is available for export. Exports during August-July 1953-54 amounted to approximately 57,000 bales, as compared with 43,000 in 1952-53.



NEW COTTON BANK  
ESTABLISHED IN ISTANBUL

Establishment of the new Pamuk Bank (Cotton Bank) in Istanbul, which will specialize mainly in transactions relating to cotton production and trade, has been authorized by Decree No. 4/4573, of the Turkish Council of Ministers, March 5, 1955, according to A. Bodurgil, American Consulate General, Istanbul. The bank will be known officially as the "Pamukbank Türk Anonim Şirketi". The largest group of shareholders will be cotton farmers and merchants, many of whom are from the Adana area, Turkey's cotton belt.

The bank will engage in all kinds of banking transactions, import, export, and domestic trade, construction activities, transportation, mining, and warehousing. Activities of the bank will be concentrated on industrial development, chiefly in the cotton textile field, but some effort will be directed toward promoting the modernization of cotton cultivation through the application of Western technical methods. Bank headquarters will be in Istanbul and the first branch office opened in Adana on June 1, 1955.

BRITISH ABOLISH PURCHASE  
TAX ON NON-WOOL TEXTILES

The British Government has abolished the purchase tax on non-wool cloth in the piece, and on household textiles, effective May 4, 1955, according to Paul H. Pearson, American Consul, and K. M. Greaves, American Consulate General, Manchester. This action followed an earlier concession on April 19, 1955, when the purchase tax on these categories was reduced from 50 to 25 percent.

The removal of the tax is expected primarily to encourage an increase in the manufacture of finer fabrics, both for domestic consumption and the export trade. Since the effect of the tax has been more pronounced on the better quality fabrics, its abolition is not expected to have any noticeable impact on the output of medium and coarse goods.

No change was made in the 25 percent purchase tax on made-up clothing, although the major portion of rayon and synthetic textiles is made into garments. It is roughly estimated that the piece goods trade in cotton and rayon textiles is about one-fifth of the total home trade.

# HONG KONG COTTON CONSUMPTION EXPECTED TO REMAIN STEADY

Consumption of cotton in Hong Kong is expected to continue at its present annual rate of approximately 215,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during the August-July 1954-55 marketing year, according to Carl C. Campbell, Cotton Specialist, United States Department of Agriculture, recently returned from a trip to the Far East. Cotton consumption in Hong Kong during the August-July 1953-54 year was estimated at 203,000 bales.

Hong Kong's cotton imports amount to approximately the same as its consumption, since the City is entirely dependent upon imports for its cotton supply. Brazil and Pakistan have been the major sources of Hong Kong's cotton in recent years, but the absence of restrictions on imports and use of foreign exchange suggests possibilities for expanding United States exports to this area.

Imports from the United States in the first 7 months (August-February) of the 1954-55 year have amounted to 6,600 bales as compared with imports of 5,000 bales in 1953-54, and only 300 bales in 1952-53. Hong Kong will probably continue to obtain at least 25 percent of its cotton requirements from Commonwealth sources in order to receive the benefits of Empire Tariff Preference within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Adequately trained personnel and modern equipment are seen as factors favoring continuation of the present high level of activity in the cotton industry. As of March 22, 1955, approximately 256,000 spindles were installed in Hong Kong, and an additional 36,500 were expected to be installed by the end of May 1955. Spindleage is expected to level off at about 300,000. Spinning mills operate about 2,000 automatic looms, and independent weavers operate about 4,600 power looms and 2,000 hand looms. Some mills have combing equipment which can produce yarns as fine as 60's, although most of the production is 20's.

## PANAMA NOW PERMITS IMPORTS OF EDIBLE OILS

Imports of edible oils into Panama are no longer prohibited, according to a revised listing, dated February 28, 1955, published by the Panamanian Office of Price Control, reports the American Embassy, Panama City.

The original prohibition on imports of fats and oils, as provided for by OPC Resolution No. 65 of August 17, 1954, was effective through December 31, 1954 only. Effective December 1, 1954, higher import duties became applicable to edible fats and oils, thus continuing in a measure, at least, the effect of Resolution No. 65. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of December 20, 1954, page 694.)



# COSTA RICA INCREASES IMPORTS OF FATS AND OILS

Imports of fats and oils into Costa Rica in 1954 totaled 6,102 short tons, against 5,277 tons in 1953 and 4,983 tons in 1952, reports the American Embassy, San Jose. Imports of hog lard, the major item, were 4,027 tons, or about the same as in 1953. Most of the increase was in vegetable lard--from 159 to 618 tons, and hydrogenated oils and greases--from 371 to 713 tons. Other imports included 485 tons of vegetable oils, as such, 226 tons of vegetable cooking oils, and 33 tons of cod liver oil.

The bulk of the hog lard and all of the hydrogenated oils and greases came from the United States. The Netherlands supplied most of the vegetable lard.

Costa Rica exported only 69 tons of African palm oil last year in sharp contrast to exports of 592 tons in 1953. Exports of oil-bearing seeds and nuts also dropped--from 581 tons in 1953 to 15 tons last year. These exports plus 105 tons of vegetable shortening went to El Salvador, Panama and Colombia.

## UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA FATS AND OILS EXPORTS DOWN

Exports of fats and oils from the Union of South Africa in 1954 of 37,325 short tons represent a substantial drop from the 44,872 tons exported the previous year, reports Meade T. Foster, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Pretoria. The decrease was chiefly in fish and whale oils, exports of which were only 10,623 and 6,595 tons, respectively, against 18,769 and 9,290 tons in 1953. Peanut oil shipments, however, increased from 16,167 tons in 1953 to 19,736 tons last year.

The greater part of the marine oils went to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, and Sweden. About 44 percent of the peanut oil exported in 1954 went to the United Kingdom and most of the remaining quantity went to the Netherlands, Belgium, Hong Kong, and Australia.

The Union also exported 30,774 tons of shelled peanuts, 3,436 tons of sunflower seed, 23,862 tons of fish meal, and 9,529 tons of oilcake and meal last year. Nearly 70 percent of the peanuts went to the United Kingdom and about 20 percent to the Netherlands. The United Kingdom also took 13,967 tons of the fish meal exported and 5,492 tons of the oilcake and meal.

Imports of fats and oils into the Union of South Africa in 1954 consisted chiefly of 32,379 tons of tallow, mainly from the United States, 12,176 tons of fish oils, and 13,962 tons of fish meal. The latter 2 items were chiefly from South-West Africa. (Cont'd., next page.)



Production of shelled peanuts and sunflower seed, the major oilseeds grown in the Union, is forecast at 139,000 and 51,000 tons, respectively, in 1955 against 140,000 tons and 55,500 tons last year. Antarctic production of whale oil in the 1954-55 pelagic season of around 15,300 tons was only about three-fifths as large as the year before. However, Antarctic sperm oil output of 3,145 tons was twice that of the previous season. Shore-station production of whale and sperm oils in 1954 was 5,244 and 2,773 tons, respectively. Fish body oil output dropped slightly from the year before to 12,589 tons, while the outturn of animal fats remained about the same at 25,550 tons.

#### POPPY SEED PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY

Poppy seed production in the major producing countries of the free world totaled 26,000 short tons in 1954 or less than half the 1953 output. In the prewar period world production of poppy seed averaged around 50,000 tons, of which about 60 percent was produced in countries now under Communist domination. These countries for which recent data are not available to the Foreign Agricultural Service, and for which there is little basis for estimating output, are the Soviet Union, Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria.

Table 1 - POPPY SEED: Production in specified countries,  
annual 1950-1954

(Short tons)

Country	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 <sup>1/</sup>
Austria.....	1,292:	1,160:	1,093:	1,065:	1,293
France.....	1,842:	1,213:	981:	937:	926
Western Germany.....	3,307:	3,513:	2,126:	1,675:	1,317
Iran.....	- :	15,432:	15,432:	16,534:	16,534
Netherlands.....	3,252:	5,112:	815:	309:	783
Turkey.....	10,913:	22,046:	26,455:	33,069:	4,960
Yugoslavia.....	1,652:	- :	1,146:	3,147:	345
Total.....	22,258:	48,476:	48,048:	56,736:	26,158
<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary.					

Compiled from official sources.

Of the 7 major producers of the free world, Turkey and Iran are by far the largest, accounting for upwards of 80 percent of total production in 1953 and 1954. While output in Iran has remained rather constant in recent years, production in Turkey increased threefold from 1950 to 1953, then dropped sharply in 1954.

The United States imports 3,000 to 4,000 tons of poppy seed annually, more than half of which originates in the Netherlands. (See Table 2.)

Table 2 - POPPY SEED: UNITED STATES imports, annual 1950-1954, and January-March 1955

(Short tons)

Country	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1/	1955 1/ January-March
Argentina.....	243:	380:	11:	110:	90:		142
United Kingdom....	2/	6:	2/	4:	0:		0
Netherlands.....	2,362:	1,592:	2,420:	1,904:	1,697:		477
Czechoslovakia....	907:	326:	191:	0:	0:		49
Poland.....	407:	338:	524:	785:	713:		288
Turkey.....	94:	119:	474:	666:	428:		0
Iran.....	84:	16:	151:	5:	388:		87
Western Germany....	0:	53:	2/	0:	0:		0
Hungary.....	0:	147:	0:	0:	0:		0
Denmark.....	0:	0:	2:	0:	5:		0
France.....	0:	0:	2/	14:	0:		0
Finland.....	0:	0:	0:	0:	0:		18
Nicaragua.....	0:	0:	0:	0:	36:		0
Other.....	1:	1:	0:	0:	0:		0
Total.....	4,098:	2,978:	3,773:	3,488:	3,357:		1,061

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than .5 tons.

Compiled from Bureau of Census.

#### PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

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Foreign Ag. Circ. FD-4-55

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The Tobacco Market in Ireland. Foreign Ag. Circ. FT-24-55

Indonesian Fibers--Abaca, Sisal, Kapok, Ramie, and Areng Palm Fibers.

Foreign Ag. Circular FVF-8-55

Mozambique Sisal Production and Exports, Calendar Year 1954. Foreign

Ag. Circular FVF-7-55



SWEDEN'S OILSEED PRODUCTION  
EXPECTED TO BE DOWN FROM '54

Production of vegetable oilseeds in Sweden in 1955 is forecast at 160,100 short tons, or somewhat below the 177,670 tons produced in 1954, reports the American Embassy, Stockholm. Stocks of oilseeds were relatively large at the end of 1954. Imports of oilseeds, fats, and oils in 1955 probably will be about the same as last year.

Production of rapeseed, the major oilseed grown in Sweden, is forecast at about 150,000 tons, as compared with 165,300 tons in 1954. Output of animal fats this year is forecast at 22,600 tons against 23,100 tons in 1954, while the expected outturn of marine oils of around 22,000 is slightly larger than last year. The 1955 output of vegetable oils from both domestic and imported raw materials is forecast at 82,300 tons as compared with 85,600 tons in 1954 and 95,100 tons in 1953.

Imports of fats, oils, and oilseeds into Sweden increased substantially in 1954 from 1953, and exports declined. Net imports, therefore, were markedly higher last year than in the year before. Both imports and exports of oilcakes and meals were up from the 1953 trade.

SWEDEN: Trade in specified oilseeds, fats, and oils, and total oilcake and fish meal, forecast 1955 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Commodity	Imports			Exports		
	1953	1954 <u>1/</u>	1955 <u>2/</u>	1953	1954 <u>1/</u>	1955 <u>2/</u>
Copra.....	41,765	53,297	55,000	-	-	-
Soybeans.....	2	19,332	11,000	-	-	-
Flaxseed <u>3/</u> .....	16,099	1,339	1,100	117	1,886	-
Rapeseed.....	<u>4/</u> 11,243	<u>4/</u> 480	<u>4/</u> 550	64,043	26,955	44,000
Marine oils <u>5/</u> .....	22,817	31,784	32,000	2,017	3,853	4,400
Animal fats, hydrogenated..	5,789	2,124	<u>6/</u>	6,746	5,586	6,600
Fatty acids <u>3/</u> .....	1,410	520	<u>6/</u>	2,109	2,797	2,700
Stearine.....	1,196	1,674	<u>6/</u>	1	-	<u>6/</u>
Linseed oil <u>3/</u> .....	4,567	14,539	14,330	10	20	<u>6/</u>
Rape oil and acids.....	-	337	<u>6/</u>	23,059	10,182	9,900
Soybean oil.....	1,402	89	<u>6/</u>	165	675	550
Tung oil <u>3/</u> .....	1,197	1,389	<u>6/</u>	-	110	<u>6/</u>
Palm oil.....	1,168	634	<u>6/</u>	-	-	<u>6/</u>
Coconut oil.....	1,657	10,413	6,600	3,101	6,125	5,500
Oilcakes and fish meal.....	85,897	141,349	138,945	42,129	58,199	42,000

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Forecast. 3/ On the transit dollar list. 4/ Includes certain other oilseeds. 5/ Includes fish and whale oils. Fish oils are on the transit dollar list but whale oil, for food, is not. 6/ Not available.

Source: American Embassy, Stockholm.



Prices in 1954 for imported drying oils declined considerably from 1953, and slightly for whale oil. The price of copra, however, increased. Prices to crushers for domestic oilseed and wholesale prices of oilcakes showed relatively little change.

The market for fats and oils in Sweden is regulated for the purpose of protecting the market for domestic butter. By means of these regulations the prices of margarine and table fats are kept at levels which exceed raw material and production costs by about kr. 1.65 per kilogram (14.4 U. S. cents per pound--converted at the official rate of exchange of 5.18 kronor to the dollar).

#### BELGIAN CONGO VEGETABLE OIL EXPORTS UP IN 1954

The Belgian Congo exports of major vegetable oils--peanut, cottonseed, palm, and palm kernel oils--increased roughly 8 percent over 1953, according to R. L. Yost, American Consulate General, Leopoldville. Total exports of vegetable oils in 1954 reached approximately 192,000 short tons.

Palm oil again constituted the major portion of vegetable oil exports--154,526 short tons in 1954 compared with 144,440 in 1953; 160,584 in 1952; and 145,522 in 1951.

Area planted to oil palms totaled 449,912 acres, of which 291,220 acres were under European control. In 1953, about 269,971 acres of a total 429,424 were European controlled.

Both production and domestic consumption of palm oil increased in 1954. Production climbed to a high of 214,445 short tons, compared with 174,164 in 1953; 179,109 in 1952; and 183,375 tons in 1951. Domestic consumption of palm oils amounted to 24,491 short tons in 1953; and 63,351 tons in 1954.

Prices of palm oil varied little throughout 1954, fluctuating around 11,000 francs per metric ton c.i.f. Antwerp (10.0 cents per pound) in January to around 11,500 francs (10.4 cents) in December. And prices were on the whole somewhat higher than in 1953, partially because the average quality of the oil exported was appreciably improved during the year through the use of more modern equipment. Palm oil prices reached 11,850 (10.7 cents) during January 1955, but by April declined to 11,300 francs (10.3 cents) with very little oil being sold.

Export duty on palm oil was raised from 2 percent to 7 percent in January 1954, and it was maintained at that level throughout the year in spite of producers' protests. Then in 1955 the level was raised to 12 percent, but under pressure from the Congo palm oil producers and in recognition of the weakness of the market, the Ministry of Colonies, by a decree of March 26, 1955, lowered the export duty on raw palm oil from the Congo from 12 percent to 7 percent for the month of March--after which the duty was restored to 9 percent. (Cont'd., next page.)

Production of palm kernels at 131,083 tons remained about the same as in the preceding year--130,993 tons; production of palm kernel oil rose from 197,889 to 214,445 tons.

Exports of palm kernel oil increased over 50 percent in 1954, from 16,388 tons to 28,109. Outward movement of palm kernels dropped sharply to 79,145 tons from 96,541.

Palm kernel oil prices during 1954 slumped from 16,500 francs per ton c.i.f. Antwerp (14.9 cents) in February to 13,250 (12.2 cents) in the middle of December. The price fall was somewhat less on unprocessed palm kernels.

Little change occurred in peanuts. An acreage of 732,256 planted in 1954 was not far different from 1951 through 1953, when 685,000 acres, 739,000 and 745,434 acres, respectively, were devoted to peanut raising. Production of 206,623 short tons of unshelled peanuts was an improvement somewhat over the prior year with 198,500 tons; though production in 1951 and 1952 were respectively 176,000 and 215,000 tons. Exports of unshelled peanuts were negligible again in 1954.

Peanut oil production in 1954 is estimated at 7,532 tons and exports at 6,301 tons. Production and the volume of peanut oil exported fell off substantially from 1953 levels of 10,802 and 9,921 tons, respectively. The price also weakened during the year from 21,000 francs per ton c.i.f. Antwerp (19.0 cents) in February to 15,500 (14.1 cents) in December. On a slow Antwerp market; the quotation on peanut oil at the end of April, 1955 stood at 13.00 francs per kilo (11.8 cents).

Cottonseed oil exports in 1954 at 6,393 tons were up 9 percent from the year before although the price on the London market fell from the high of 19,703 francs per ton (17.8 cents) in April to 16,092 (14.6 cents) in December.

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ARGENTINA AND U.K. SIGN NEW  
TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT

A new agreement on trade and payments signed in Buenos Aires March 31, 1955, between Argentina and the United Kingdom will continue in effect until June 30, 1956. Under the agreement, agricultural commodities estimated to be about \$236 million in value will be supplied by Argentina to the United Kingdom. An estimated \$97 million is provided for meat and \$56 million for grain. Provision is also made for numerous other agricultural and animal products of interest to United States agriculture, some of which are as follows:

	<u>Thousand dollars</u>
Oilcake and expellers	13,392
Cotton fiber	10,602
Linseed and other vegetable oils	8,370
Wool	7,812
Hides and skins	6,975
Butter	5,580
Fresh and dried fruit (\$1.8 million for apples and pears)	3,069
Frozen poultry	2,511
Lard	837
Fresh and dried eggs	418
Tallow and refined oil	363
Cheese	279

The United Kingdom expects to export manufactured goods and also petroleum supplied by British companies, with an estimated value of about \$190 million to Argentina. In addition, Argentina expects to import about \$46 million worth of jute sacking, rubber, and other commodities from the rest of the sterling area, making the sum of the two groups of imports equal the value of exports.

There will be a working balance of £20 million (\$56 million) maintained in the Argentine Central Bank's account at the Bank of England. If the balance rises above this amount, the United Kingdom will authorize the transfer of the excess into dollars, provided that Argentina has not used the credit facilities granted by the agreement. If on the other hand, the balance falls below £20 million before December 31, 1956, Argentina will sell dollars previously acquired with sterling to the extent of restoring the balance to the agreed level. The United Kingdom will continue, as provided in the 1952 agreement, to make sterling credit available to the Argentine Government up to £20 million on terms to be agreed if the sterling balance of the Argentine Central Bank is not sufficient to meet payments in the sterling area. The agreement is accompanied by an exchange of notes stating that Argentina will permit the remittance of profits on sterling investments in Argentina.

Note: Pounds sterling converted at \$2.79 per pound.



